Daily Report

Latin America

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El Salvador

Arias, FMLN-FDR on Prospects for Dialogue

PA081940 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1100 GMT 08 Sep 87

[by Daniel Santana; SALPRESS-NOTISAL "special envoy" in San Jose, Costa Rica]

[Text] President Oscar Arias and members of the FMLN-FDR said today that there are obstacles to holding the dialogue scheduled for 15 September with the Salvadoran Government. Both sides made the same statement in separate press conferences after holding a meeting at the Government Palace that lasted approximately 2 hours.

Costa Rican President Arias said that even though there are obstacles to holding a dialogue in El Salvador, his government will continue, acting as a mediator, to arrange a meeting between the FMLN-FDR and President Jose Napoleon Duarte. In this regard, President Arias said the following:

[Begin recording] We have had the opportunity to engage in a friendly and frank conversation with FMLN-FDR representatives. I have reiterated to them the Costa Rican Government's willingness to act as a mediator in the conflicts that exist in the two sister nations of the region, Nicaragua and El Salvador. We have told them that just as we helped bring about the 7 August meeting in Guatemala, which at the time seemed difficult to arrange because of certain considerations, today we want to try to arrange a dialogue which was also proposed by President Duarte, in El Salvador. This is what we offered to our visitors. There are obstacles to holding the 15 September meeting. Costa Rica is telling the Central American people and the entire world that it is willing to act as a mediator. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Dr Guillermo Ungo, president of the FDR, said the meeting with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias was very beneficial. Ungo said that the guerrilla alliance accepts Arias' proposal to act as a mediator to achieve a dialogue and negotiation in El Salvador. Dr Ungo talked about the meeting with President Oscar Arias.

[Begin Ungo recording] We really cannot reveal everything that we discussed with President Arias because we want to create better conditions to achieve the common objective we talked about: The renewal of talks in El Salvador to find political solutions to the conflict. Our meeting with President Arias went fine. We had the opportunity to talk about the most important aspects of the conflict and he learned about our political intentions regarding the dialogue and negotiation. He learned about the problems that exist and the need to solve them. In that regard, since we recognize the important role played by president Arias in the search for peaceful solutions to the region's problems, we are pleased and we have accepted his proposal to act as a mediator to achieve a dialogue in El Salvador. [end recording]

The FMLN-FDR delegates said that the obstacles to holding talks in El Salvador are the conditions imposed by President Jose Napoleon Duarte, which would require a return to the conditions that existed before the 1984 La Palma talks.

Duarte Discusses Rebel-Arias Meeting

PA050458 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 5 Sep 87

[Excerpt] President Jose Napoleon Duarte said this afternoon he is optimistic the rebel groups will fully accept the Guatemala peace plan during the meeting they will hold with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias on Monday.

Although there will not be a dialogue on 15 September, President Duarte said this afternoon he is willing to hold a dialogue with the FMLN as long as the guerrillas accept the terms outlined in the Esquipulas II document. He noted that an FDR dialogue with President Arias in the next few days is a positive step in the search for peace.

[Begin Duarte recording] President Arias called me to tell me the FMLN people had asked him for a meeting. He asked me for my opinion. I said I was pleased. I told him I thought it was perfect for them to meet. I asked him to tell them about the statement the five presidents made about the peace plan. I asked him to ask them to accept the peace plan. I told him I am willing to talk in peace but not in war. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

Government Releases Opposition Leaders

PA081954 Paris AFP in Spanish 1939 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Managua, 8 Sep (AFP) — The Nicaraguan Government today released Lino Hernandez, coordinator of the opposition Permanent Human Rights Commission, and Alberto Saborio, a conservative leader, into the care of U.S. Senator Tom Harkin.

The two men were jailed 15 August after participating in an unauthorized opposition Democratic Coordinating Board rally in Managua.

Hernandez and Saborio, who is also president of Nicaragua's bar association, have been on a hunger strike since 26 August.

Harkin arrived last night in Managua for a working visit, accompanied by a team of advisers.

Ramirez Stresses Compliance With Esquipulas

PA050302 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Sep 87

[Text] Dr Sergio Ramirez, Vice President of the National Reconciliation Commission, reiterated the Government's commitment to fulfilling the Guatemala Agreements.

[Begin recording] [Ramirez] I want to express my satisfaction — and I believe I voice the feelings of all Commission members, both principals and deputies —

that His Eminence Cardinal Obando is presiding over this commission. His candidacy was proposed to all of the principal commission members by President Ortega, and it was accepted unanimously. So I want to publicly express our support for this election. Secondly, as member of the National Reconciliation Commission, I want to say that we are going to try to carry out our work in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the agreement signed by the Central American presidents in Esquipulas. That document excludes any type of negotiation or dialogue with persons who have not laid down arms and have not given up their military attitude. Also, the references in the agreement to dialogue and mechanisms apply to groups of persons who take advantage of the amnesty laws that each country is bound to create or perfect and that are to be incorporated into the domestic political process.

Therefore, and just as the President has stated, the government is ready to open a national dialogue in accord with the terms of the Esquipulas agreements, and our Commission will supervise and monitor the national dialogue once it starts.

[Reporter] The U.S. Administration has reiterated that it will continue to support the counterrevolutionary group. Yesterday we had the visit of Sen Robert Dole and other representatives. Can you, as member of the National Reconciliation Commission, tell us whether the U.S. Administration has made any gesture toward Nicaragua, that may lead us to believe that it may stop aiding the counterrevolution and whether Sen Dole's visit may be construed as a peaceful gesture.

[Ramirez] We members of the National Reconciliation Commission would like to see gestures that would lead to a lasting peace, and that all those individuals, governments or other entities having something to do with peace in Central America at this time — and the U.S. Government has something to do with peace in Central America — would make positive contributions to the attainment of that peace. Obviously, and as stated in the Esquipulas Agreements, if the military and financial aid to the counterrevolutionary forces continues, this would not aid peace in Nicaragua and it would not help the work of the Commission, either. So then, to us, the work would be much easier if all the parties involved would express their willingness through concrete acts. The Nicaraguan Government has affirmed, and I can reiterate it here, speaking now in my capacity as vice president of the Republic, that we are seriously and firmly committed to complying with the Esquipulas agreements to the letter, and nothing is going to sway the Nicaraguan Government from this firm willingness to comply with the agreements. Therefore, in this regard, the Reconciliation Commission may expect from the Nicaraguan Government full compliance with the agreements. And we would like to see a similar attitude in the U.S. Government and in all those involved in the compliance with the committments.[end recording]

Wheelock Announces Main FSLN Tasks

PA070155 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Sep 87

[Text] We must announce the main tasks of the political agenda issued and recommended by the FSLN National Directorate and announced by Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman before several hundred members of mass organizations who gathered at the Ramirez Goyena Central Institute in this capital.

The priorities of the 10 tasks issued to the Nicaraguan people, including all the mass organizations, are defense and the economic battle.

Another task is to continue the fight against the mercenaries until they are liquidated. We must also strengthen the armed apparatus, defend our revolution, and patriotically assume all the socioeconomic duties. In addition, we must work for our people's welfare and greater organization. Another point, included among the 10 points announced by Wheelock Roman this evening is to increase our efforts, work, discipline, production, and productivity.

The revolutionary leader held a meeting with the leader of the mass organizations and the regional FSLN committee.

We must work hard to strengthen the defense and peace of our revolution, Wheelock Roman noted.

Ortega Discusses Country's Main Problems

PA080015 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Sep 87

[Report by Juan Caballero from Corinto]

[Text] President Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega, as part of a working tour through this region accompanied by his ministers, had a "Face the People" program with the port workers of Corinto.

The workers told the president about their most important problems. In spite of limitations, some of the problems will be resolved immediately. Others will have to be faced by looking for alternate solutions with the solidarity of other comrades.

The revolutionary leader explained to the workers the main reasons for the problems, mentioning the transport problem, the problem in supplying the workers, and others that have resulted from the war against the people that is a consequence of Reagan's warmongering policy. Examples of this are the latest attacks against economic objectives carried out by mercenaries financed by the White House.

The Nicaraguan president praised the heroes and martyrs who have died defending the revolution. He recalled the 33d anniversary of the death of Father Asarias H. Talero, who was very much liked by the people of Corinto.

President Ortega also spoke about the sacrifice made in the United States by a war veteran who was maimed by a train carrying war materiel for the mercenaries.

Daniel Ortega also pointed out the peace efforts that the government is making through the Esquipulas agreement and pointed to the maneuvers of the right in an effort to create a confrontation between the people and the government, thus playing the hate-policy game of the Reagan administration, which maintains a constant threat against the Nicaraguan people. [passage indistinct of recorded Ortega remarks]

Panama

Torrijos-Carter Treaties Commemorated

PA080157 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Sep 87

[Text] The 10th anniversary of the signing of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties was celebrated today in the city of Santiago. The following is a report on that event:

[Reporter] The official meeting taking place at noon at Placita de San Juan de Dios, Veraguas Province, was used as a forum to tell the world about the constant violation of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, to reject U.S. intervention in the country's domestic affairs, and to reaffirm our sovereignty. [Video shows General Noriega and President Delvalle informally dressed, sitting behind the speakers' podium] President Eric Arturo Delvalle; members of his cabinet; General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the National Defense Forces; members of his staff; political leaders of the UNADE [National Democratic Union], and popular leaders attended the ceremony.

The speakers chosen to recall the historic date were in agreement that unity among all Panamanians must prevail, today more than ever, to face the challenges of the year 2000 and consolidate the heritage of General Torrijos, within the planned objectives to continue the struggle of generations and the conquests already made within the projects of national liberation.

Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias, representing the executive branch, charged that Panama has been protesting steadily for the past 8 years over the U.S. noncompliance of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. Abadia added that the current campaign of lies and slander is directed at preventing the Panamanian Government from defending the rights of its people to the Panama Canal and forcing it to desist from its objectives of peace in Central America. The Panamanian fatherland is now in danger because of fanaticism and intolerance. There are Panamanians who want Panama to be a free and sovereign nation, while there are others who want it to be a subjugated territory.

The foreign minister emphasized the responsibility shared by all countries of the world to contribute to the efficient management of the canal; but for 8 years, Panama has been protesting the noncompliance with the agreements signed by Jimmy Carter and Gen Omar Torrijos.

[Hamburg DPA in Spanish at 0033 GMT on 8 September reports: "President Eric Arturo Delvalle and General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Commander in Chief of the Panama Defense Forces, were absent from the ceremony held in Santiago de Veraguas."]

Abadia Anniversary Speech

PA080044 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1724 GMT 7 Sep 87

[Speech by Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia on occasion of the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties; in Santiago, Veraguas Province — live]

[Text] Your Excellency Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle; General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces; distinguished members of the three state branches; church representatives; special guests; dear Panamanian people:

At that great demonstration 10 years ago, when the joyful Panamanian people went to welcome General Omar Torrijos after the signing of the new canal treaties, I imagined a day like today: The Panamanian people would meet again in an enormous rally like the one filling the streets of this proud and brave city today. I thought we would have a great celebration to recall the moment when Panama came of age as a nation.

On 7 September 1977, Panama signed a solemn commitment, because a treaty is a solemn action. That contract obligated the United States to improve our independence and recognize the right of the Panamanian people to decide and forge its own destiny as an equal before the other nations of the world.

These 10 years have shown us Gen Torrijos' great vision, when he looked at the future with a full beam — as he used to say. He constantly repeated that the struggle had not ended yet, that we should not let them take away our achievement, because he knew that governments change and so do their interests. He knew that those who have power to impose their will could very well not fulfill their commitments.

We now see that the orders and struggle that he bequeathed us have regained validity, because he knew that the status of our nation has never been a gift or an accident and that peoples cease to be colonies and break the chains of slavery only through their struggle; a people that surrenders continues to be a colony and a slave.

For over 8 years, the Panamanian Government has been denouncing the unfulfillment of the agreements signed on 7 September 1977. Even before the treaties entered into effect, when they began to prepare the way in which they would violate the treaties signed by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Gen Omar Torrijos, Panama began protesting the injustice that the United States was getting ready to commit against the Panamanian people's rights. We have been very patient throughout these years. We have resorted to all diplomatic means

available, in good faith and with an understanding spirit, to protest constantly, because the U.S. Congress decided to approve a law that unilaterally imposes its will on us and violates the treaty.

The time came when continuing to wait without acting was harmful, and continuing to be patient was dangerous, because we were not taking the essential actions to receive the canal in the conditions that the United States committed itself to deliver. Now we have been forced to talk the language of struggle again. I will tell you a few things that the local and foreign enemies always tried to hide by confusing people and blaming the treaties.

For 8 years, we have been protesting not only the violation of the treaties, but also the U.S. congressional law, because the rectifications that we achieved do not include the most important commitments and benefits that the Panamanian people have a right to because of the canal.

Panamanians have lost their patience after all these years, and the national government launched a great attack 1 year ago when it stated at the summit of the 100 nonaligned countries in Zimbabwe that the United States is not fulfilling the canal treaties. President Delvalle bravely made that same statement at the UN General Asembly, and I did the same at the OAS General Assembly.

We were also forced to state that they were organizing a campaign of slanders and lies to weaken us, make us give up our efforts for peace in Central America, and force us to accept orders from Washington.

Gen Torrijos bequeathed us a country in which foreigners no longer give orders. It is the Panamanian people who gives orders, and because we follow Omar's line, they started organizing their most reactionary elements along with the most reactionary group of betraying Panamanians.

I ask you to listen carefully. I ask you to think carefully about what I am saying. Those who are trying to overthrow the government seek to impose a government that would not represent the people's will or defend their rights.

With the great admiration that I have for Omar Torrijos Herrera and in view of the profound ties of affection that united me with him, I want to talk to you on this occasion the way he would have done so in the face of the dangers that are looming over us. However, I ask you to overlook the fact that I do not have the special and unique characteristics that he had as a leader.

We must admit that Panamanians, more than commemorating this date, should be making an oath to fight the international and local network of lies and slander begun by the enemies of the fatherland to close our path and force us to divert our course on the path to national liberation.

For this reason, those who wanted to listen to a flowery speech full of praises and joyous exclamations will have to wait for another occasion. Perhaps they will have to wait for a long time, because we have a long and hard struggle ahead.

We must be united in response to this agression. We must respond with pride and firmness to their attempt to subject us. We must respond to their internal allies with rejection and condemnation. We must respond to their venomous network of lies with our truth. It is the truth of a people who do not want to be the slaves or servants of any other nation.

Prior to talking about the dangers involved in the current situation and the threat they represent for the fatherland and the people, I want to warn you that our enemies are trying to confuse facts, saying that our liberation project and our project for the people's liberation are separate things. They are saying that compliance with the treaties has nothing to do with local politics. They are saying that the Panamanians' canal has nothing to do with the struggle for political power. We must all understand, and make our friends and coworkers — even many good Panamanians who were deceived and are now our adversaries — understand that both factors are inseparable.

Consequently, there is a unity between the nationalist struggle and the struggle for the people's demands. Those who do not want to understand this are playing the enemy's game.

We will not accept so much injustice in silence. We will not let this injustice occur without doing anything. The need to make the canal operate efficiently imposes an international responsibility on us.

Therefore, you should know that in our relations with the United States, 10 years after the signing of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties we have had to substitute credibility and good faith for an attitude of patriotic accusations. We have had to substitute our willingness to cooperate for a decision to fight permanently. We have had to substitute our confidence in the reaching of a national goal for a staunch determination to make sure that the people's best achievement will not be snatched away from us by foreign imposition or internal treason.

Many serious Panamanians have recently said that the fatherland is in serious and grave danger. They are not wrong. We must understand the extent of the problem and how to face it.

Sinister forces that we thought were gone forever in our history, fanatism and intolerance, have reappeared on our soil to sow hatred and division. We must understand from where hatred stems and from where division emerges.

The past 3 months have taught us that there are Panamanians who want Panama to be independent and free, and there are others who want it to be a territory

subjected to a foreign government. There are Panamanians who want all Panamanians to be truly equal. They want them to have equal opportunities in life, to becomel professionals and be successful. They want them to be able to participate, regardless of their race or origin, in the political leadership of the Republic.

However, there are Panamanians who want a privileged minority to decide this leadership in accordance with their personal and selfish interests. There are Panamanians who think that the fullest expression of freedom is that which allows human beings to be free of misery and hunger, free of sickness and illiteracy, and free of the humiliation of being unemployed. However, there are few Panamanians who think that liberty is only a statue at the entrance of New York harbor. They think that it is a word learned in the texts of U.S. universities. They think that it is a privilege that is inherited, guarantees their access to power through the organized lie, and grants them freedom to trample on the freedom of others.

We do not deny them the right to think and feel that way, because as human beings, we must have the right to think and feel whatever we want.

Opposition is necessary for our aspiration to build a democratic society. For this reason, because of our pluralistic convictions, we again urge all those who oppose us to contribute with their criticism and demands to better lay the groundwork for a democratic society, so everyone's democracy will stem from it. However, if they refuse to talk and instead continue with their stubbornness, then we will have to take to the streets and the plazas, in the cities and in the rural areas, to compare our truth with the lies with which they have tried to destroy our project for national liberation. [applause].

They are demanding a democracy because they refuse to understand that we are building a Panamanian democracy based on a democratic society, which is the indispensable principle for a true and lasting democracy.

You should know — and those of you who did not live through the period should ask the elders who did live through it and in many cases suffered through it, especially here in Veraguas where the history of ideological persecution goes back so far — the Republic of Panama spent 65 years calling itself a democratic country but without having a democratic society based on equality of rights and opportunities. The democratic society began with Torrijos, who began creating it from below with humility and spiritual greatness. Following that path and building on that basis, we recognize those rights, even for those enemies of this democratic society — who do not want equality because they are sons of proprietors, feel like masters, and want power to become masters; and because Omar's liberation project puts an end to the foreign and local master.

If they continue with their stance of defending human rights, let us ask them what I asked a U.S. Government envoy a short time ago: How many schools, how much medicine, and how many rural wells and aqueducts will not be built because a few bad Panamanians who say they defend human rights went to Washington to ask Congress not to give Panama $25 million in aid? The right of children to study, the right of the sick to be cured, and the rights of those who live in remote areas to have potable water and health — are these not human rights?

We can also add a thought for those groups who call themselves civic groups in certain banks — does not continuing these seditious acts endanger the jobs of 8,000 Panamanians? The right of those Panamanians to stability and the source of their income and the right to their family's economic security — are these not human rights? The right to work as the Constitution provides — is that not a human right? Or do the leaders of that Civic Crusade not consider human those Panamanians who will continue without a job because of the lack of foreign and local investment that these 3 months of agitation have brought about?

If fanaticism continues to keep them away from the dialogue that we have proposed, let us give them a solemn warning today: No one will impose a fascist model in Panama, because UNADE [National Democratic Union] will not allow them to; because the alliance between the people and the Defense Forces will not allow it; the same way we shall not allow them to continue with the idea of changing the Panamanian Government into a simple puppet on strings that can be manipulated from a foreign capital. Those who will never accept our liberation project should learn now that we will continue working for Panama with Panamanians, for the Panama Canal for Panamanians, for the people's well-being, and for the democracy we are committed to build.

Although not even 20 years have elapsed, many of our children, many youths are ignorant of what there was before 11 October 1968, and they do not know what the cost has been of getting to where we are now — the sacrifices that were the price for the conquests attained on the road of national and people's liberation.

General Torrijos warned that we should vaccinate ourselves against the viruses that our enemies spread with a false distinction between civilian and military governments. Now we see how this virus has served to incubate a fascist outbreak in our society with its inevitable aftermath of hatred and division. We must control this sickness that is starting to eat away at the foundations of peace that we had constructed, and we have to do it by disclosing the past, identifying the whitewashed burial sites underneath the white handkerchiefs and dresses, tearing off the masks of the false prophets who believe that the forgetfulness of one generation is enough to fool a whole people.

We have to disclose all the bitter truth that goes back before 1968, so the youths can compare it to our present truth and with the truth of the future liberation. This is the best vaccine against the organized lie infection,

against fascism. We have to start a massive people's vaccination campaign. We know that this is how we shall win against the enemy, both inside and outside; and against all enemies. Let us start today by swearing that we shall never falter in this great struggle for the final victory, and let us repeat this oath each day until 31 December 1999. We shall then have fullfilled our obligation to Omar.

Thank you. [applause]

Delvalle Meets With FMLN-FDR Leaders
PA090444 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] As we announced at the beginning of this newscast, President Eric Arturo Delvalle met with the leaders of the Salvadoran guerrilla movement. The delegation is made up of Guillermo Manuel Ungo and Ruben Zamora, president and vice president of the FDR, respectively; and the FMLN'S Commander Shafik Handal of the General Command and Commander Mario Lopez.

The guerrilla leaders informed President Delvalle about the meeting they held yesterday with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who offered to mediate a resumed dialogue in El Salvador.

In addition, the delegation told Delvalle that with this meeting, they seek to promote the participation of the international community and — in the case of Panama, which is within the Contadora Group — the participation of this country in the search for a solution to the Salvadoran conflict.

Delvalle promised to inform his colleagues in El Salvador and Costa Rica and the Contadora and Support Groups about this meeting. He also reiterated that he vows to continue supporting the peace efforts for the region.

'Thousands' Stage Antigovernment March
PA080340 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0133 GMT 8 Sept 87

[by Anne Marie O'Connor]

[Excerpts] Panama City, 7 Sep (REUTER) — Thousands of Panamanians joined a protest march today against the military-controlled government in the latest demonstration in a wave of protests that, according to officials, is starting to affect the country's economy.

"Militarism: The tomb of economic progress," read one of the posters against the government, whose de facto leader is General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Noriega and President Eric Arturo Delvalle planned to participate in a progovernment rally commemorating the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Panama Canal treaties in Santiago, 250 km from this capital, a government spokesman stated. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, antigovernment demonstrators were followed by car motorcades beeping their horns in support of the slogans chanted, while office workers in high-rise buildings along the avenue threw pieces of paper. [passage omitted]

New Ambassador to Washington
PA051449 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 5 Sep 87 p A4

[From the "Names and Events" column]

[Text] Juan B. Sosa, former director of the Civic Aeronautics Board and a member of the Republican Party, has been appointed ambassador to Washington, to assume the post formerly held by Dominador (Kaiser) Bazan, who resigned. It is not known whether or not Aquilino Boyd will also remain in Washington with special duties.

Argentina

Newly-Elected Governors Assume Duties 10 Dec

PY081335 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2030 GMT 7 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Sep (DYN) — The names of the new provincial governors and deputy governors who will assume their duties on 10 December in keeping with the results of the 6 September elections, are as follows:

Buenos Aires: Antonio Cafiero-Luis Macaya (Justicialist Renewal Front);

Catamarca: Vicente Leonides Saadi-Oscar Ramon Garbe (Justiciliast Party);

Cordoba: Eduardo Angeloz-Mario Negri (Radical Civic Union);

Corrientes: Ricardo Leconte-Gabriel Feris (Autonomous Liberal Pact) — to be confirmed by an electoral college.

Chaco: Danilo Luis Baroni-Emilio Carrara (Justicialist Party);

Chubut: Nestor Perl-Fernando Cosentino (Justicialist Party);

Entre Rios: Jorge Pedro Busti-Domingo Daniel Rossi (Justicialist Front);

Formosa: Vicente Joga-Gildo Insfran (Justicialist Party);

Jujuy: Ricardo de Aparici-Eduardo Alderete (Justicialist Party);

La Pampa: Nestor Ahuad-Eden Cavallero (Justicialist Party);

La Rioja: Carlos Saul Menem-Alberto Cavero (Justicialist Party);

Mendoza: Jose Octavio Bordon-Arturo La Falla (Justicialist Party);

Neuquen: Pedro Salvatori-Jose Lucas Echegaray (Neuquen Popular Movement);

Misiones: Julio Cesar Humada-Julio Piro (Justicialist Liberation Front);

Rio Negro: Horacio Massaccesi - (there is no deputy governor) (Radical Civic Union);

Salta: Hernan Cornejo-Pedro Maximo de los Rios (Justicialist Front);

San Luis: Adolfo Rodriguez Saa-Angel Ruis (Justicialist Alliance);

Santa Cruz: Ricardo Jaime del Val-Jose Graneros (Justicialist Renewal Front);

Santa Fe: Victor Reviglio-Antonio Vanrell (Justicialist Party);

Santiago del Estero: Cesar Iturre-Manuel Herrera Arias (Justicialist Party);

Tucuman: The election will be defined by the electoral college. The ticket which received the most votes was the UCR made up of Ruben Chebaia and Luis Lencina, however, the Justicialist Party ticket made up of Jose Domato and Rodolfo Vargas Aigansse, and a Justicialist Party faction, may threaten the nomination of the UCR ticket.

Martinez on Cabinet Reshuffle Possibility

PY081745 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1645 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Sep (NA) — Vice President Victor Martinez today admitted that "adjustment and changes may occur" in the national Cabinet "without the need for the ministers to leave." He made this comment after meeting this morning with President Alfonsin at Government House to "make an overall study of the election results."

He explained that Alfonsin "does not plan" to make a speech to the nation, but admitted the president plans to meet with Antonio Cafiero, governor-elect of Buenos Aires Province, because "we believe it would be useful to ask him about some measures the government plans to propose." At any rate, said Martinez, "when something like this happens, it is normal for the ministers to have the decency to offer to resign but there are still no plans for a ministerial reshuffle. That would be hasty at this time."

He went on to say that consultations with other governors-elect "will be made regarding the readjustment of some meausres not only because Peronism won in the Buenos Aires Province but also because some decisions on economic measures were already planned."

Victor Martinez has also said he does not agree with comments by Saul Ubaldini, president of the CGT [General Confederation of Labor], who said Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille should resign immediately. Martinez added: "I do not think there is a need for this because the economy is not the job of a single ministry but rather of the team. The government can introduce adjustments and modifications without the departure of any minister."

Martinez conlcuded by saying: "This is a time for reflection and analysis in order to determine what has to be adjusted to benefit the country." It is also time for "the appropriate consultations with the winners."

Government 'Concerned' Over Schnake Case

PY090335 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0038 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 8 Sep (DYN) — Reliable diplomatic sources reported that the Argentine Government today expressed its concern to the government headed by

Augusto Pinochet over the situation of former Senator Alvaro Erick Schnake Silva who was abandoned by Carabineros at the Chilean-Argentine border.

The Argentine Government's annoyance was expressed through Alberto Ferrari Etcheverry, the Argentine under secretary for Latin American Affairs, to Sergio Gaete Rojas, the Chilean ambassador in Buenos Aires, during a meeting this afternoon at the Argentine Foreign Ministry.

Gaete Rojas was summoned to the Foreign Ministry to explain the case involving the former Socialist senator, who currently holds Spanish citizenship, and who was arrested on 5 September by security forces of the Pinochet regime.

Sources consulted by DYN said Ferrari Etcheverry told the Chilean ambassador that the Argentine Government "is concerned" over the fact that Chilean authorities have distorted information about how the former senator was abandoned at the border. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Air Force Plane Explodes, Minister Killed

PY090112 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 0057 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] Air Force Ministry sources have just confirmed that a Brazilian Air Force jet carrying Agrarian Reform Minister Marcos Freire to Brasilia exploded 8 seconds after taking off from the Carajas Airport in Para State.

The accident took place at about 1900. The plane was carrying Minister Marcos Freire; INCRA [National Institute of Land Reform and Settlement] President Jose Eduardo Raduan; Agrarian Reform Ministry Secretary General Dirceu Oessoa; Minister Freire's private secretary, Jose Teixeira; Agrarian Reform Ministry's Adviser Ivan Ribeiro; and Amaury Teixeira, Jose Teixeira's father.

The Air Force Ministry reported that the plane's pilot and crew were: Lieutenant Colonel Rezende, Captain (Shikamura), and Sergeant Carlos Alberto.

Rescue teams have already been sent to the location of the accident. More details in our next newscast.

Ship Sinks in Para State, Death Toll Climbs

PY090046 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] A tragedy has taken place in Amazonia. Nineteen people have died in a shipwreck that occurred early this morning on the Tapajos River in the Para State. The ship, named Isaac III, with a total capacity of 50 passengers, sailed from Brasilia Legal to Itaituba, carrying more than 100 people. Two hours later, near Barreirinha village, the ship could not hold the excess weight it was carrying, broke in the middle and sunk. Fishermen and local residents worked all day to recover the bodies and save those still alive. According to available information over 30 people may have died.

Bresser Views Meetings With U.S. Officials

PY090216 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Finance Minister Bresser Pereira held a 2-hour meeting with U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker. Bresser Pereira left the meeting very optimistic, but as reporter Lucas Mendes said, the U.S. Government has rejected the Brazilian debt renegotiation proposal. Bresser Pereira knows this area very well. He was here in July 1987 although nothing was achieved at that gathering.

The minister said this meeting, on the other hand, yielded good results.

[Begin Bresser recording] Mr Baker expressed willingness to help us at the talks with other banks and official credit organizations in an effort to make these negotiations successful. This was Baker's basic idea. He did not like the idea of turning the debt into bonds, although he accepts the so-called "exit bonds" [preceding two words in English], which means debt is turned into investments. He also thinks this change can be made on a much larger scale than that made by Argentina. [Argentina changed part of its debt into investments]

Baker also agrees with the idea that Brazil must reach an agreement with the banks first, and then with the IMF. Regarding spreads [preceding word in Enlgish] — Brazil will maintain its proposal of a zero-spread rate — Baker said we must discuss that with the banks. [end recording]

A note issued by the U.S. Treasury Department shortly after the meeting states that Bresser's plan to turn part of the debt into bonds will not yield the expected results and if Brazil wants to change the schedule of debt payments to creditor banks; that is, to the Paris Club, it will have to first reach an agreement with the IMF.

Bresser Pereira also met with the U.S. Federal Reserve chairman to discuss payment formulas suitable to both creditors and debtors.

When Minister Bresser Pereira replaced former Finance Minister Dilson Funaro, one of Bresser's advisers said relations between Brazil and the United States changed from water to wine; that is, they became excellent. Today, a Brazilian following these negotiations said if no agreement is reached quickly, relations between Brazil and the United States will become vinegar.

At the end of the meeting, the finance minister said Brazil will not make any payment of the debt, not even a token one. The minister explained that since Brazil has resumed negotiations, payments are unnecessary. When the reporter kept asking about the token payment, Bresser Pereira said: You can forget about it.

Alfonsin to Visit National Nuclear Plants

PY090240 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2345 GMT 5 Sep 87

[Text] Brasilia, 5 Sep (EFE) — Argentine President Raul Alfonsin will visit Brazilian nuclear plants within the next 2 months, Presidential Spokesman Frota Netto today reported.

Frota Netto said the Brazilian Government is thus reciprocating Alfonsin's invitation to President Jose Sarney to visit Argentine nuclear installations during the latter's visit to Argentina. Frota Netto added that Alfonsin will visit Brazil before the Latin American presidents' meeting in Mexico in November, "mostly because this visit will affect bilateral agreements being implemented between the two countries." He also said Brazil does not think foreign countries will exert any more pressure regarding Brazil's official announcement that it had mastered the entire cycle of the atom. "This announcement is a Brazilian reaffirmation in the field of science, economy, and technology, and it will improve the status of Brazilian foreign relations," he said. Frota Netto also said Brazil is ready to accept AIEA [International Agency of Atomic Energy] surveillance, as long as Brazil is also authorized to survey the nuclear facilities of other countries of the "Atomic Club," such as the United States.

He concluded by saying the most important thing is to be able to count on the understanding of the other Latin American countries, particularly Argentina, that also developed an entirely national technology for uranium enrichment.

Governors Reject Plebiscite on Government System
PY081307 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 5 Sep 87 p 1

[Text] Nine governors of southern, southeastern, and central-western states met in Florianopolis and have decided to turn down Rio de Janeiro Governor Moreira Franco's proposal to call a plebiscite to ask the people which system of government they want for the country. The governors decided to defer the issue to the Constituent Assembly and have thus yielded to President Jose Sarney's wishes. Sarney, who has always been against calling a plebiscite, sent Federal District Governor Jose Aparecido de Oliveira to the meeting. De Oliveira has worked hard to prevent approval of the plebiscite. The governors also decided to support the draft tax reform proposal made by the coordinator of the Systematization Committee, Bernardo Cabral.

Military Want Changes in Constitutional Draft
PY081253 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Sep 87 p A6

[By correspondent Clovis Rossi]

[Text] The military ministers want two changes to be made in the constitutional draft submitted by the coordinator of the Constituent Assembly Systematization Commission, Bernardo Cabral.

1. They do not want the constitutional draft to retain the clause subjecting the Armed Forces intervention to defend the constitutional order to "express authorization" by the constituted powers. They allege that if such a provision is not removed, the Legislative Branch could, for example, call on the Armed Forces to resist an order from the nation's president who is the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, thus creating a conflict of authority.

2. They want to see reinstated in the constitutional draft the clause which states that the Armed Forces can act in defense of "law and order". Senator Fernando Henrique Cardoso agrees with these points in principle. He said: "If that provision is erased, federal troops could not, for instance, guarantee elections in conflictive states." In such a case, the Military Police would not resolve the problem because it is subordinated to the state governor, who is always an interested party in any electoral conflict.

Above all, the military ministers are concerned about the inability to act in cases of strikes affecting essential sectors and services, and during large street disturbances.

Army Increases Patrolling of Northern Border
PY082219 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1754 GMT 5 Sep 87

[Text] The Army minister has ordered the first deployment ever of Army personnel at the Colombian border, in the Amazon region, for three reasons: for the military control of the area, to prevent possible guerrilla incursions, and to fight drug trafficking.

Similar airborne detachments will be deployed along the 6,500-km border with Venezuela, French Guiana, Guyana, and Suriname.

The increased Brazilian military presence along the border areas is part of the "North Channel" [Calha Norte] project which also purports to stimulate and support the region's economic growth.

The Brazilian church has categorically opposed the project and warned of the threat it poses to the region's nearly 50,000 Indians. The church has also denounced the hidden interests of large companies seeking the exploitation of minerals in the area, an area they had not been able to enter due to Indian opposition.

The Army detachment will control the Negro River, which according to military authorities, is the main waterway for the displacement of guerrillas from the M-19, drug traffickers, and people carrying contraband.

The program has used $70 million since it began 1 and 1/2 years ago. A large portion of that money was used by the Armed Froces; only 10 percent was used by the Foreign Ministry which is in charge of establishing the exact border line, and of reequiping the consulates in Leticia, Colombia; Santa Elena, Venezuela; and Cayenne, French Guiana.

The government intends to recapture control of the northern border areas by deploying new Army detachments, reinforcing existing detachments, improving roads, and increasing trade.

The Amazonian Region Airports Commission and the Ministry of Aeronautics are responsible for the construction of several airports, while the Navy is in charge of

improving navigational conditions of rivers and is presently in charge of building a new patrol boat. The Army is responsible for ground operations.

Chile

Synchronized Attack Follows Blackout

PY081325 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] A synchronized attack on police stations, which was preceded by a blackout in several districts, took place last night in Santiago.

The attack by terrrorists started at 2124 with a blackout in several districts, especially in northwestern Santiago, in Pudajuel, Lo Prado, and Cerro Navia districts, and in Estacion Central and Maipu districts.

Terrorist groups, on foot or using stolen taxis , attacked the Teniente Merino Police Station in Cerro Navia district, the Alessandri Police Station in Estacion Central district, and the 25th Police Precinct in Maipu district last night at 2130, 5 minutes after the blackout started.

The Teniente Merino Police Station in Cerro Navia district was attacked by individuals firing automatic weapons from a car with the engine running. Fortunately, the personnel in the booth and at the checkpoint area were not injured.

At the Alessandri Police Station, the personnel were on red alert and were able to spot a group of unidentified pedestrians who placed a bomb in front of the police station.

In both cases, the attack was promptly repelled by the personnel on duty. Thus, the terrorists were unable to succeed in their attempts.

A similar situation was experienced at the 25th Police Precinct in Maipu district.

A police operation, which included a large area in northern, central, and southern Santiago, was immediately conducted and several armed clashes ensued. During the police operation, two police vans were attacked from a neighboring house at the intersection of Federico Errazuriz and San Francisco Streets, in Pudahuel district, and the police concentrated their action in this area. Last-minute reports indicate that many people were arrested. However, it has not been reported whether the perpetrators of the attacks on the police stations are included among the detainees.

The blackout lasted only a few minutes and the power supply in the metropolitan area was restored before 2145. A brief blackout also occurred in Valparaiso, without major consequences.

Details on Attacks

PY082224 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Sep 87

[By Reporter (Mario Reynes) from Radio Nacional de Chile]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] This morning, Carabineros released an official communique indicating that two [as heard] Carabineros personnel were reportedly injured during terrorist attacks perpetrated against four police stations last night.

Carabinero Juan Antonio Gonzalez Barrera was seriously injured while trying to repel a terrorist attack on La Victoria Police Station.

Carabineros also reported that terrorists shot, from a taxi and a motorcycle, at the Lieutenant Hernan Merino Police Station with automatic weapons and grenade launchers. One of the grenades — an antipersonnel FS-65 — did not go off. Two homemade grenades were found near the police station, whose walls and facade were slightly damaged by bullets and shrapnel. Carabineros station wagon No Z-1113 was hit by four bullets. No victims have been reported.

At 2125 last night, other terrorists threw hand grenades against the Maipu Police Station from a passing station wagon, which they later used to escape. As a result of this attack, two private cars that were parked in the police station parking lot were damaged. The attack caused no casualties.

At 2140, a group of terrorists attacked La Victoria Police Station. Carabineros personnel on guard repelled the attack. This was when Juan Antonio Gonzalez Barrera was injured.

At 2145, terrorists attacked the Alessandri Police Station, and were repelled by Carabineros personnel. Some of the terrorists left behind a U.S.-made Lowe rocket launcher, which was deactivated by GOPE [Grupo de Operaciones Especiales — Special Operations Group] personnel.

President Pinochet Blasts 'Terrorists'

PY080359 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Sep 87

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet said we are tired of listening to people who defend human rights while also defending assassins. He added that these people do not repudiate anything, not even terrorists. He said it seems they only defend those who will not hesitate to shoot them tomorrow.

[Begin Pinochet recording] But today they are linked to the dirty money they receive from abroad. They travel without cost all around the world; they are receiving blood-stained money. They bring [word indistinct] from abroad to criticize their fatherland. They have sold man's most precious gift: his conscience. These are the people who today speak about a democracy of which they have no knowledge. They only use democracy for their own political means. [end recording]

Pinochet made this statement during a ceremony held today at the Diego Portales building in honor of the victims of terrorism. The ceremony was attended by

government Junta members and Cabinet members. Pinochet said the relatives of terrorist victims should have the spiritual support of the government, the president, and the chiefs of institutions near the president.

[Begin recording] We do not have the power to give you back your loved ones. However, you must know we will do everything in our power to punish those guilty to the full extent of the law. We must act within the framework of the law. We cannot violate it as our enemies do because if we do, we would be as cruel as they are. [end recording]

General Pinochet said if this were not the case, we would become beings without conscience, feelings, and scruples. He added: Dignified men of our fatherland are daily falling victims [of terrorism]. He said the instigators of these crimes are characterized by their materialism, hatred, and tyranny. He said: The difference between them and us lies in our conscience. We cannot act like they do because we are soldiers, and because above all, we are men of goodwill.

Pinochet said: It is time for us to wake up like we did in 1973. No more terrorist acts, no more bombs, assassinations, destruction and demagoguery. United we will defeat them as we did in the past, because evil has always been defeated. The battle, however, demands courage, calmness, and sacrifice. We must overcome passiveness and together we will strive in our efforts so our sons will be able to walk the streets without the threat of extremists.

University Students, Carabineros Clash

PY090328 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] There were clashes between Carabineros and Catholic University students this afternoon at the Catholic University's eastern campus. The incidents occurred when students held a demonstration to express solidarity with Chile University students and professors and to request Chile University Rector Jose Luis Federici's resignation.

(Juan Eduardo Brisiani), FEUC [Catholic University Student Federation] secretary general, reported that Catholic University students held a ceremony sponsored by the Theology School in support for Chile University Students.

[Begin (Brisiani) recording] After the ceremony, hundreds of students went to the front of the eastern campus to hold a demonstration together with Chile University students to express solidarity with the latter university and to request Federici's resignation. About 400 students took part in the demonstration. About 30 minutes later, the Carabineros special task force arrived at the scene and proceeded to attack university students. [end recording]

The student leader added that Carabineros proceeded to shoot rubber bullets and tear-gas canisters at the demonstrators despite the fact that FEUC representatives requested they leave the campus.

Government Allows Schnake, Others to Return

PY090229 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Report from Government House by Eliana Enriquez]

[Text] The government today authorized former Socialist Senator Erick Schnake to return to the country. It also allowed Jaime Gazmuri, former MAPU [United Popular Action Movement] secretary general, and 29 Chilean citizens living in exile to return.

The Interior Ministry has issued a declaration which states that Erick Schnake Silva's authorization to return to the country had been under study and a final decision was imminent. It added that Schnake was completely aware of this. The declaration adds that since Schnake decided to enter the country before the decision was announced, thereby violating the terms of his exile, authorities were compelled to adopt the proper measures. This is how the declaration referred to the expulsion of the former senator after he clandestinely entered the country to attend the Second International Parliamentary Assembly.

The Interior Ministry declaration adds that attitudes such as those upheld by Erick Schnake will not undermine the development of the institutional process.

Colombia

Julio Londono Confirmed as Acting President

PA082240 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 2130 GMT 8 Sep 87

["Official communique" issued by the Presidency's Information and Press Secretariat at Bogota's Narino Palace on 8 September]

[Text] 1. The president of the Republic, while in Seoul, ROK, needed an urgent operation because of a sudden gastric illness that occurred following the reception hosted by Korean President Chon Tu-hwan.

2. The operation was successful, and the president is recovering satisfactorily.

3. President Virgilio Barco is still the president of the Republic; however, under the circumstances, the remaining scheduled events have been canceled. The economic, technical, and cultural cooperation meetings between both countries continue to be carried out normally by the president's advisers, and the scheduled agreements will be signed in due time.

4. As is public knowledge, Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes is exercising fully and nationwide the presidential functions entrusted to him by the president.

Signed in Bogota on 8 September 1987.

Venezuelan Copter Allegedly Violates Airspace

PA090241 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 0025 GMT 9 Sep 87

[Text] Villavicencio — A new violation of Colombian airspace by a Venezuelan military aircraft was confirmed

tonight. In Puerto Carreno a commercial pilot reported to the control tower that a Venezuelan Air Force helicopter gunship was sighted and had intercepted his plane. [as heard] The report was made by Captain Fernando Estrada to CARACOL. His aircraft is a DC-3, registration no HK-3150, of Aeroexpreso La Selva.

At about 1545 Sunday, the Venezuelan helicopter gunship flew over Puerto Carreno and chased the DC-3 over a short distance.

Women Burned to Death in Border Car Accident

PA051935 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1735 GMT 5 Sep 87

[Text] Six women [as heard] were burned to death near the Venezuelan border in a car accident that was caused by the Venezuelan National Guard. These are the first six victims of Jaime Lusinchi's decree to repress contraband at the two nations' border. The decree orders the installation of 20 strategic watch posts along the border. The victims' names are Carmenza Gonzalez, Fulvia Garcia, Teodolina Gonzalez, Marina Gonzalez, and Victoria Gonzalez — all of whom were either Venezuelan or Colombian citizens.

The victims were traveling in a vehicle that was being chased by Venezuelan guards who opened fire and hit the tires, which exploded. The vehicle turned over, caught fire, and the women burned to death. Colombian and Venezuelan peasants have warned that they will continue to cross the border as usual, risking their lives — as these unfortunate women demonstrated.

The National Guard has increased its size and surveillance to cover more area and enforce the presidential decree. Tensions in the border areas of La Guajira, Cucuta, and Arauca continue to increase, according to our country's authorities in that area.

Paraguay

Opposition Lecturers Beaten by Colorado 'Gang'

PY081303 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 7 Sep 87 p 12

[Text] On 5 September, Juan Ramirez Kohn, vice president of the first Colorado Party precinct in Coronel Oviedo, led a gang of some 40 people who beat several politicians and the public who were attending a meeting organized by the Coronel Oviedo Center of Culture and Art. Ramirez Kohn is a member of the Militant faction of the Colorado Party.

Eyewitnesses have reported that several people who were attending the meeting, which was held at the parish lecture hall, were injured — some of them seriously.

Among those badly beaten were the four invited lecturers: Eng Gustavo Riart, a member of the Authentic Liberal Radical Party [PLRA]; Dr Julio Cesar Vasconcellos, of the Convergencia-faction of the Colorado Popular Movement [MOPOCO]; Dr Euclides Acevedo, of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party; and Antonio Pecci, of the Paraguayan Journalist Guild (SPP).

Other vicitms of the brutal aggression were: Ignacio Espinola Zaracho, Coronel Oviedo Cathedral priest; Hermes Chamorro, president of the Center of Culture and Art and some of the meeting organizers; Elsi Benitez; Guillermo Espinola; and Eulalio Chamorro.

According to the meeting organizers, the two central topics to be discussed were: "A view of the social and political reality of the country," and "Suggestions for the future." The first lecturer was Dr Euclides Acevedo, who spoke for 15 minutes about the authoritarian political model of President Stroessner's regime and the necessary steps to lead the country in a process of democratic transition.

The second lecturer was Engineer Riart, who spoke about the current regime, and the search for a government system in which political parties, business enterprises, and labor unions may fully participate.

Dr Julio Cesar Vasconcellos, the third lecturer to address the meeting, commented on the double dictatorship being experienced in the country: the dictatorship reigning in the country and the dictatorship reigning in the Colorado Party. As an example of the party dictatorship, Dr Vasconcellos said the people of Coronel Oviedo experienced this dictatorship during the last party meeting, when the police helped the Militant-pro-Stroessner faction win the elections."

At this point, Ramirez Kohn started to shout against the lecturers and against PLRA president Dr Domingo Laino. In great fury he warned that this was the last time such a meeting would be allowed.

Ramirez Kohn then went up to the stage with some 40 other people and started to mercilessly beat the lecturers. "Dr Vasconcellos was thrown to the floor several times and kicked in front of his terrified wife and small daughters. The other lecturers, including Engineer Riart, were beaten with chains and wires, while the attackers pointed guns at them," Antonio Pecci said.

Dr Vasconcellos was beaten until he managed to get into his car. Hermes Chamorro, who tried to defend the MOPOCO leader was also savagely beaten. While trying to calm down the attackers, Father Ignacio Espinola was hit in the back with a chair and beaten until he fell onto the floor, spokesmen of the Center of Culture and Art said.

Pecci said: "Some of us saw Ramirez Kohn, who had led the attack, go to the Colorado Precinct with some 50 people." "Later we learned that 1 hour before the meeting started, several people armed with pistols took up strategic positions in the lecture hall, and one of them, who carried a big bag, started to distribute wires and chains to the others. Thus, we realized the attack had been carefully planned," Pecci said.

Church Issues Communique

PY081640 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 8 Sep 87 p 6

[Excerpts] The Bishopric of Coronel Oviedo has issued a communique signed by Msgr Claudio Silvero about the

events of public knowledge carried out by a group of the Colorado Party Militant faction. The group was headed by Juan Ramirez Kohn, vice president of local Colorado Party precinct. [passage omitted]

The communique states: "Father Ignacio Espinola received a severe blow and the militant shouted at him: 'We, the Stroessnerist Colorados will beat people wherever we want, in the street or in church; we will kill the priests at their own altars; and we will beat them in their own tombs if possible.'"

"All these regrettable actions took place without police intervention, despite the fact that the Government Delegate Office is 1/2 block from where the incident happened. The Militants then noisily boarded a truck near the Government Delegate office and left," the communique states. It adds: "We publicly repudiate these actions because they violate the right and dignity of the people, and discredit and debase those who carried out the repression and the institution in whose name they carried it out, they discredit the name of our city and our parish hall, the site of so many praiseworthy events of social promotion."

In conclusion, the communique states that the community of Coronel Oviedo "has once again been insulted by a group that uses violence as a method instead of reason, as it corresponds to civilized people."

Street March Sought Release of Politicians

PY081349 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 6 Sep 87 p 7

[Text] An improvised demonstration to protest the arrests made at the fifth meeting of the Civic Assembly took place yesterday at about 1100 on the crossing of Estados Unidos Street and Quinta Avenue in Asuncion.

The protest consisted of a street march on Quinta Avenue. It lasted nearly 5 minutes and was made up of about 60 people who carried placards, shouted slogans, and chanted anti-government songs, demanding the immediate release of all the arrested politicians.

The demonstration was made up of members of different political, labor union, and social organizations. Among the parties represented were the Febrerista Revolutionary Party, the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, the Popular Democratic Movement, and the Social Workers Union [Sindicato de Promotores Sociales — SPS].

Other people who participated in the march were members of the Independent Workers Group [Agrupacion Independiente de Trabajadores — AIT], and the Independent Movements Coordinating Board [Coordinadora de Movimientos Independientes — CMI], which is formed by Catholic and National University students among others.

Politicians, Others Released

PY090231 Asuncion Radio Primero de Marzo in Spanish 2230 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] Most of the opposition politicians, social and student leaders detained 2 weeks ago, were released this afternoon.

Leonor Cardoso, of the Engineering School Students' Association; Beatriz Romero, of the Popular Democratic Movement [MDP]; and Maria Ligia Centurion Prieto, of the Union of Women in Favor of Democracy were released.

Dr Fernando Vera, president of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party [PRF]; Dr Miguel Abdon Saguier, of the Authentic Liberal Radical Party; Hugo Ruiz Diaz, of the Social Promoters' Union; Ruben Vera of the Popular Democratic Movement [MDP]; and Gabriel Rodas, of the PRF are back in their homes.

Dr Hermes Rafael Saguier, who is being indicted according to Law 209; and Tomas Lopez, of the MDP, who does not have his documents in order, are still in custody.

The released politicians will hold a press conference at the Casa del Pueblo tomorrow.

(Andres Nissen), of the Authentic Liberal Radical Youth, was also released today.

PLRA Meeting Held, Leader Laino Arrested

PY081231 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 7 Sep 87 p 12

[By Special Correspondent Augusto Barreto]

[Text] Santa Barbara, District of Yuty — The meeting scheduled by the Authentic Liberal Radical Party (PLRA) to be held in Yuty was held at Santa Barbara, 8 km from the original site, because the police prevented the people from entering the town of Yuty. Some 4,000 people attended the political meeting in Santa Barbara.

At about 0830, PLRA President Dr Domingo Laino left San Pedro del Parana in the company of some 2,500 people and was joined later by a great number of people. When the group reached the bridge on the Tebicuary River, some 10 km from Yuty, a large group of policemen barred their way, saying that, complying with "orders from above," the Yuty meeting had been suspended, and they "would not let the group pass."

In face of the police cordon the group "pushed" the police barrier until they got off the bridge. At that point the policemen warned the crowd they were going to open fire. The PLRA members answered that if the police resorted to violence they would do the same. The leaders had to intercede and calm down the situation. The group then continued the march for another 2 km until they reached Santa Barbara village. There, the police patrol that had been "pushed" by the PLRA group received reinforcement. Policemen and civilians armed with bats and rifles again attempted to stop the group.

In view of the seriousness of the situation the leaders decided to hold the meeting there, 8 km from Yuty. From the top of truck cabs Adalberto Mongelos, PLRA secretary general; Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin, PLRA vice president; and Victor Baez Mosqueira, MIC [Colorado Integration Movement] representative addressed

the people. The main speaker was Dr Domingo Laino. Domingo Vigo, president of the San Pedro del Parana PLRA, closed the meeting.

At the end of the meeting, which was peaceful, Dr Laino said good-bye to the policemen and explained that his group had not intended to resort to violence, all they had wanted was to exercise their constitutional right. It was then the policemen told Laino he was under arrest.

Venezuela

Cabinet Approves Refinancing Foreign Debt

PA081514 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Sep 87

[Text] The cabinet has approved the amendment for the refinancing of the foreign debt. The signing of the refinancing contracts will open new credits for investments and development and allow the country's industry to produce and export enough so the nation can pay its obligations with international banks.

The amendment establishes a 14-year period for payment of the public foreign debt, instead of the 12 and 1/2 years established in the original agreement signed in February 1986. In addition, it establishes interest rates equal to the libor rate plus seven-eighths, instead of the libor rate plus 1 and 3/8, thus decreasing the amount to be paid per year, particularly in the first few years.

According to the original contract, Venezuela had to pay $1,055,000,000 this year and $1,196,000,000 in 1988. With the new plan, it will pay $250 million this year and $400 million next year. This represents $1,601,000,000 less.

The contingency clause to which the government can resort in the event of sudden new drops in the oil price, or if economic conditions make it impossible to meet the obligations with creditor banks remains in effect.

Finance Minister Manuel Azpurua will immediately begin the legal paperwork to prepare for the signing of the contract. This process will take approximately 1 month, since the draft amendment must be sent to the representatives of the 450 creditor banks.

With the approval of this amendment, the international banks guarantee the expansion of their credit lines to finance exports. In addition, these banks will support our country's initiatives to obtain financing for specific development projects and place bonds on the international markets.

Azpurua explained other aspects of the decision adopted at the special cabinet meeting:

[Begin Azpurua recording] We are looking at the advantages, but also at the commitments created with the signing of this amendment. Of course these commitments are more favorable. We will honor our obligations and regularize our international credit with the financial community. [end recording]

It must be recalled, Azpurua said, that this debt was not contracted by this administration. He said:

[Begin recording] With this decision, the national government is facing a debt that cannot be ignored, a debt that was not contracted by President Lusinchi's administration. However, we had to face this debt. This debt was contracted on unfavorable terms. They were short terms. They were terms more onerous than contemplated in the debt reorganization amendment. In addition, the country resorted to this financing and commitment at a time when the country had the largest foreign exchange resources in its history. This was during the years 1979 to 1981. Nevertheless, the country contracted its highest level of indebtedness during that time. [end recording]

In the next few days intense contacts will be held between the government's economic team, coordinated by Azpurua, and the representatives of the creditor banks. The leaders of these banks must have a response from the Venezuelan president before 1 October.

Defense Minister Denies Airspace Violation

PA041845 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Sep 87

[Text] Minister of Defense General Eliodoro Guerrero Gomez has denied an EFE news agency report stating that Venezuelan F-16 airplanes flew over Colombian territory. The defense minister said the report is false, because Venezuelan airplanes have not entered the neighboring country's airspace at any time. He added that the control tower personnel at the Santiago Perez Airport in Arauca — which is a branch of the civil aeronautics sector in Colombia — might have made an error. Minister Guerrero Gomez said that this type of report is not conducive to the two countries' efforts to maintain the best harmony in their relations and to avoid any misunderstandings in this regard.

Rains Cause Deaths in Maracay Area

PA071823 Paris AFP in Spanish 1649 GMT 7 Sep 87

[Text] Maracay, Venezuela (AFP) — Dozens of people have died as a result of heavy rains and flooding streams in north central Venezuela Sunday afternoon and this evening, according to hospital and radio station sources in this city located 60 km west of Caracas.

There are different reports about the number of casualties. Television Channel 2 said that there might be 79 dead. There is an undetermined number of injured and missing. Firefighters have confirmed that four people drowned and civil defense officials said that three people were killed when their houses collapsed.

As the rescue operations were carried out today, it was confirmed that poor neighborhoods of Maracay and

nearby towns suffered flooding and many houses collapsed. The roads to the nearby coast were cut off and hundreds of vacationers were left stranded.

Radio reports indicated that a passenger bus overturned on a road to the beach and that another bus was hit by a landslide. It is not known if there were any casualties.

The government has declared the area an emergency zone and President Jaime Lusinchi ordered his environment, urban development, and transportation ministers and the state housing and public works officials to travel to the area. [Caracas Television Service in Spanish at 1600 GMT on 7 September in a similar report adds: "Unofficially, there are reports of a high number of casualties. However, we must wait for a communique from the national government."]